

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29 and 31 are pending.

This response to the Office Action amends claims 22-29. All of these amendments are non-substantive in scope. No intention exists to make any change in the scope of the claims. No intention exists to make any admission regarding the patentability of any of the claims in their pre-amended form.

This response to the Office Action cancels claims 31. No intention exists to make any admission regarding the patentability of canceled claims.

The Office Action

In detailed action, ¶ 1, the Office Action objected to claims 22-29, due to alleged informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In detailed action, ¶¶ 2-3, the Office Action rejected claim 31, on 35 U.S.C. § 101 grounds, as allegedly being obvious over claim 28 of U.S. Patent 6,643,322, that is, obvious-type double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In detailed action, ¶ 4, the Office Action allowed claims 1-9, 11-19 and 21. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this allowance.

In detailed action, ¶ 5, the Office Action stated that claims 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

In detailed action, ¶ 6, the Office Action stated that claim 31 would be allowable if a terminal disclaimer were submitted to overcome the double patenting rejection set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

In detailed action, ¶ 7, the Office Action gives a statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this statement of reasons.

Informalities

As noted above, the Office Action objected to claims 22-29, due to alleged informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicant respectfully asserts that, as currently presented, these claims address the issues noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Obvious-Type Double Patenting Rejection

As noted above, the Office Action rejected claim 31, on 35 U.S.C. § 101 grounds, as allegedly being obvious over claim 28 of U.S. Patent 6,643,322, that is, obvious-type double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse.

This response to the Office Action cancels claim 31, mooted this rejection.

However, by canceling the rejected claim, Applicant makes no admission that the rejections stated in the Office Action were in any way adequately supported by facts and law.

Claims Indicated to be Allowable

Claims 22-29

As noted above, the Office Action stated that claims 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Of-

Office Action. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

Claims 22-29 have been rewritten substantially as indicated in the Office Action. Accordingly, they should be allowable.

Claim 31

As noted above, the Office Action stated that claim 31 would be allowable if a terminal disclaimer were submitted to overcome the double patenting rejection set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

This response to the Office Action cancels claim 31, mooted this issue.

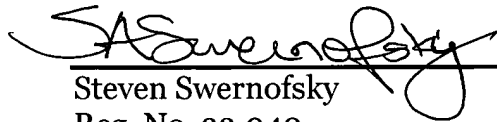
Conclusion

As described above, all claims should be allowable in their present form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and early allowance, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner can reach Applicants' attorney at (650) 947-0700 x306, or by email at sasw@swernofsky.com. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney if there are any questions, or if this application can be advanced to issuance in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

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